

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Po Murray <pmurray@newtownaction.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 5:50 PM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: Board

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The Newtown Action Alliance wholeheartedly supports the two proposed Domestic Violence Bills (SB650, An Act Concerning Temporary Restraining Orders and HB 6848, An Act Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence) and the proposed Safe Storage bill (HB6962, An Act Concerning Firearm Safety).

We support SB650 and HB6848 to better protect domestic violence victims in Connecticut. From 2001 through 2012, of all the women killed by intimate partners in the US, 55% were killed by guns. According to Connecticut Against Domestic Violence, its 18 member staff served 46,750 victims during the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. These numbers represent those who sought services therefore it does not represent the total number of individuals victimized by domestic violence in Connecticut. Study after study demonstrate that higher gun ownership results in more gun deaths and it is estimated that more than 170,000 Connecticut residents own guns. The number of Connecticut victims served in one year is staggering and last year, 13 Connecticut victims were killed in a domestic violence situation.

Any abuser with a temporary restraining order should not be able to possess a gun and the domestic violence victim should not have to wait weeks after filing the restraining order to be fully protected from being killed by a gun.

We also support HB6962 which tightens the language in our current safe storage legislation.

According to a recent study conducted by Everytown For Gun Safety,

- FROM DECEMBER 2012 TO DECEMBER 2013, AT LEAST 100 CHILDREN WERE KILLED IN UNINTENTIONAL SHOOTINGS — ALMOST TWO EACH WEEK, 61 PERCENT HIGHER THAN FEDERAL DATA REFLECT. And even this larger number reflects just a fraction of the total number of children injured or killed with guns in the U.S. each year, regardless of the intent.
- ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THESE UNINTENDED DEATHS — 65 PERCENT — TOOK PLACE IN A HOME OR VEHICLE THAT BELONGED TO THE VICTIM'S FAMILY, MOST OFTEN WITH GUNS THAT WERE LEGALLY OWNED BUT NOT SECURED. Another 19 percent took place in the home of a relative or friend of the victim.
- MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF THESE TRAGEDIES COULD BE AVOIDED IF GUN OWNERS STORED THEIR GUNS RESPONSIBLY AND PREVENTED CHILDREN FROM ACCESSING THEM. Of the child shooting deaths in which there was sufficient information available to make the determination, 70 percent (62 of 89 cases) could have been prevented if the firearm had been stored locked and unloaded. By contrast, incidents in which an authorized user mishandled a gun — such as target practice or hunting accidents — constituted less than thirty percent of the incidents.

These proposals are common sense and a matter of public safety. Thank you for your consideration and for continuing to work in a bipartisan manner to protect our children and families from gun violence in Connecticut.

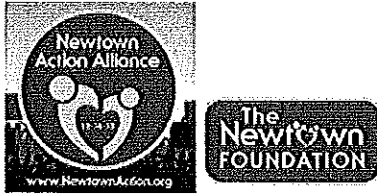
Best Regards,

Po Murray

Chairman, Newtown Action Alliance & The Newtown Foundation

NewtownAction.org | NewtownFoundation.org

P.O. Box 3325, Newtown CT 06470 | 203-512-1778 (M) 203-270-8774 (H)



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